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MS150499.01/MSFTP151USAMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A system that facilitates electronic shopping through an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:
 - an item database holding information with respect to items, the information is at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;
 - an item list database that stores an item list that includes a reference to at least one item associated with the information stored in the item database; and
 - an interface component that receives a request to display the item that is referenced in the item list, accesses the item list database to obtain the reference from the item list, utilizes the reference as a key into the item database, retrieves data corresponding to the referenced item from the item database, and utilizes the retrieved data to display the item and associated information to the requester.
2. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the interface component degrades the display of the item as records are removed from the item database.
3. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a custom input component that allows a user to add a custom element to the item list, the custom element not residing in the item database.
4. (Previously presented) The system of claim 3, further comprising a user interface component that receives data related to the custom element from a user, the data comprises at least one of structured and unstructured data.

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5. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a remote input component that allows a user to add an item to the item list, the item is a description that resides on a remote merchant's site, and the remote merchant site employs a link to the remote input component that invokes the remote input component.
6. (Previously presented) The system of claim 5, the remote input component adds the description of the item to the item list, the description includes one of structured and unstructured data.
7. (Previously presented) The system of claim 5, the description is linked to information associated with an item in the item database and the remote input component adds the linked information to the item list.
8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a component that links an infrastructure of the item list system to a remote site, the item list system appears to reside on the remote site.
9. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, the interface component comprises a plurality of ASP pages.
10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising at least one HTML page that allows a user to select items from an electronic web-site to add to the item list and at least one element that provides a link from a selected item to the interface component, the interface component adds the selected item to the item list.
11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, further comprising a gift finder component that is associated with the item list, the gift finder component accesses a user attribute database to retrieve attributes related to an owner of the item list, the gift finder component employs the retrieved attributes to extract data from the item database and returns at least one item based on the retrieved attributes.

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12. (Withdrawn) A system that creates and maintains an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

at least one database that stores information with respect to items; and

an interface component that receives a request for items in an item list, accesses the items from the at least one database and returns the requested item list, the interface component joins items from the at least one database and degrades the joined items as records are removed from any of the at least one database by providing other items from a same merchant that are similar to the removed items.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12, the items include data from at least two of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type, the interface component degrades the joined items by providing the best information from data available in the at least two of a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type.

14. (Withdrawn) A system that creates and maintains an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

an item list database and at least one database with item information stored in records; and

an interface component that receives a request to add an item, which is not in the at least one database, to an item list stored in the item list database, the item is associated with information that comprises structured data that conforms to a format of the records in the at least one database and unstructured data that does not conform to the format of the records in the at least one database or reside in the records in the at least one database.

15. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 14, further comprising a custom input component that allows a user to add a custom element to the item list, the custom element component comprises structured and unstructured data.

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16. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 15, further comprising a user interface component that receives data related to a custom element from a user, the data comprises at least one of structured and unstructured data.
17. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 14, further comprising a remote input component that allows a user to add an item to the item list having a description residing on a remote merchant's site, the remote merchant site employs a link to the remote input component to invoke the remote input component.
18. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17, the remote input component adds the description of the item to the item list, the description includes one of structured and unstructured data.
19. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 17, the description is linked to information associated with an item in the at least one database and the remote input component adds the information with respect to the item to the item list.
20. (Withdrawn) A system that creates and maintains an electronic item list for items residing at different merchant sites on the Internet comprising:
 - a database that stores item lists;
 - at least one database that holds information with respect to items in a stored item list;
 - a component that adds an item to the item list, the item resides at a remote merchant site and is associated with information that neither conforms to the format of the records in the at least one database nor resides in the records in the at least one database; and
 - an interface component located at the remote site that receives a request for items in the item list and presents the items to appear that they reside at the remote site by removing items that are not located at the remote site.
21. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 20, the interface component filters the items in order to return only items related to the remote site.

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22. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 21, the interface component accesses and returns only items related to the remote site based on an ID associated with the items.

23. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 21, the interface component accesses and returns only items related to the remote site by accessing and returning items on a separate list associated with items related to the remote site.

24. (Withdrawn) A system that creates and maintains an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

- at least one database with saved information with respect to items in an item list that is stored in an item list database,
- a user attribute database that stores user attributes and user preferences for an owner of the item list; and
- a gift finder component that accesses the user attribute database and retrieves attributes associated with the owner of the item list, utilizes the attributes to query the at least one database, selectively extracts information associated with at least one item data from the at least one database based on the attributes, and displays the at least one item of interest to a purchaser.

25. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 24, the item list comprises a link associated with the gift finder component that invokes the gift finder component from the item list.

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26. (Withdrawn) A method that provides an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

providing at least one database that stores information with respect to items, the information is at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;

providing an item list database that stores references to the items stored in the at least one database;

receiving a request from a requestor for at least one item associated with the information in the at least one database;

accessing the item list database for the references to the at least one item ;

extracting data from the at least one database that corresponds to the references; and

utilizing the extracted data to display the requested item list to the requestor.

27. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising joining the extracted data and degrading the joined items as records are removed from any of the at least one database.

28. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising joining structured and unstructured data.

29. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising inputting custom items into the item list database.

30. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising providing a link and a product description at a remote merchant site that allows a user to add items from a remote site to the item list database.

31. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising linking the infrastructure of the item list to a remote site, the item list appears to reside on the remote site.

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32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising providing links from selectable items on at least one HTML page, the links allow a user to select items from an electronic website to add to the item list.

33. (Withdrawn) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions that perform the steps of claim 26.

34. (Withdrawn) A method that provides an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising the steps of:

providing at least one database that holds information with respect to items, the information is at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;

providing a user attribute database that stores attributes with respect to an owner of the item list;

receiving a request from a requestor for possible gift items;

accessing the user attribute database for the attributes and preferences of the owner of the item list, the preferences include additional items of interest of the user that are not in the user's item list;

extracting data that corresponds to the at least one database based on the attributes and preferences;

degrading the extracted data as records are removed from any of the at least one database by providing other items from a same merchant that are similar to the removed items; and

displaying the items to the requestor.

35. (Withdrawn) A system that creates and maintains an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

means for storing information with respect to items, the information is at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;

means for storing references to the items stored in the at least one database;

means for extracting data corresponding to the at least one database employing the stored references.

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36. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for joining the extracted data and means for degrading the extracted data as records are removed from any of the at least one database.

37. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for providing custom input elements to the item list.

38. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for allowing a user to add an item residing on a remote merchant's site to the item list.

39. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for linking the infrastructure of the item list system to a remote site wherein the item list system appears to reside on the remote site.

40. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 35, further comprising means for providing gift suggestions to a receiver of an item list, the receiver employs attributes that reside in a user attribute database and means for extracting data from the at least one database based on the attributes.

41. (Previously presented) A method that provides an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:

providing an item database that stores information with respect to items, the information is at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type; and

storing an item list in an item list database, the item list includes a reference to an item associated with the information stored in the item database, the reference is utilized as a key into the item database to extract data corresponding to the referenced item from the item database and to display the referenced item and associated information.

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42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising degrading the display of the item as records are removed from the item database.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising adding a custom element to the item list, the custom element not residing in the item database.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising linking an infrastructure of the item list to a remote site such that the item list appears to reside on the remote site.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising:
allowing a user to select an item from an electronic web-site to add to the item list; and
adding the selected item to the item list.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising:
accessing a user attribute database to retrieve attributes related to an owner of the item list;
employing the retrieved attributes to extract data from the item database; and
returning the extracted data.

47. (Previously presented) A system that facilitates electronic shopping through an electronic item list for items residing on the Internet comprising:
means for storing information with respect to items, the information at least one of an offer type, a general product type, a specific manufacturer type and a specific merchant type;
means for storing an item list that includes a reference to an item associated with the stored information; and
means for receiving a request to display the referenced item, retrieving the reference, utilizing the reference as a key into the stored information, extracting data corresponding to the referenced item and utilizing the extracted data to display the item and associated information to the requester.

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48. (Previously presented) The system of claim 47, further comprising means for degrading the display of the item as records are removed from the stored information.

49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 47, further comprising means for allowing a user to add a custom element to the item list, the custom element not residing in the stored information.